



Eugene Outdoors!

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks



Summer 2003 Fall

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BATTER UP!

It's 6 p.m. on a Sunday evening at Ascot Park and the Corn Stars and Pro Mods are warming up for the next adult coed softball game. Players are throwing the ball back and forth in pairs; the pitcher is practicing with a catcher; and the manager is scrambling to recruit enough players to make a team. "Hey, can your Dad play?" she asks of one of her teammates. "I've got an extra shirt!" A small crowd is gathering on the warm summer evening to enjoy an American pastime at the park that is surrounded by older, established trees. Many are mothers and fathers of the players. It seems parents of all ages delight in watching their children play. The umpire calls, "Play ball," and the action begins. As the batter walks up to the plate and prepares for the pitch, teammates cheer, "Look for the good one," and "Good eye!" Suddenly, the crowd hears the crack of the ball hitting the bat, and the runner is off. They yell, "Run it out, run it out!"

In Eugene, more and more women, men, children, and teens step up to the plate to play softball and baseball, along with many other organized sports on the city's sports fields every year.

So what's the lure? For most people, it's a chance to get outside, be with and make new friends, have fun, and get some exercise. For most, that's enough. Others are looking for the thrill of competition.

Eugene's sports fields offer something for everyone—baseball, t-ball, football, **lacrosse**, soccer, softball, and **ultimate** Frisbee. There are close to two dozen sports organizations in the area that organize leagues for everybody from young children to older adults. The City also offers different levels of competition

through leagues ranging from highly competitive to low-key recreational.

Every year, around eight tournaments are held on Eugene's sports fields, including a masters softball tournament. Ascot Park hosts a regional solstice ultimate Frisbee tournament, which includes teams from British Columbia, Canada, and sometimes nationally-recognized teams.

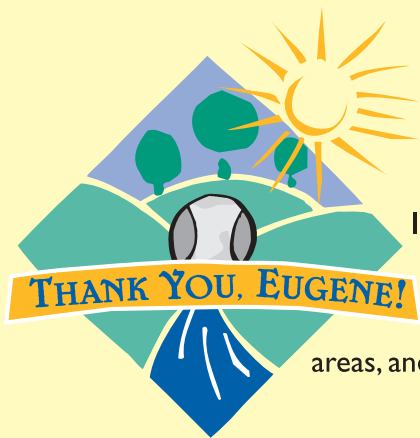
Eugene offers 23 softball/baseball fields, 12 soccer fields, five ultimate Frisbee fields, and one lacrosse field, though many are dual-purpose fields. These natural fields are located in spectacular settings with features unique to Eugene and the Willamette Valley. At Maurie Jacobs Park, people play soccer virtually on the banks of

the Willamette River. Spencer Butte provides a stunning backdrop from Amazon, Kincaid and Graham parks. University, Washington and Petersen parks are located in the heart of established neighborhoods. Residents can enjoy a unique sense of community while enjoying a sporting event or playing with family and friends.

Thanks to the 1998 bond measure, funding from 4-J School District, and the partnership between the City and 4-J, four **synthetic fields** were added to the sports field line-up in fall 2000. The fields, located at Churchill and Sheldon sports parks and North Eugene and South Eugene high schools, are equipped with lights and can be used all day and into the night, as well as year-round. This increased capacity has provided Eugene residents with many more recreational opportunities.

Batter up! Eugene's sports fields and parks are waiting for you to pick up the ball and come on out and play. Bring a child, a friend, a neighbor, or even a whole team. For more information about field locations, call 682-4800. For more information about organized leagues, call 682-5409.





In 1998, a \$25.3 million parks and open space bond measure was approved by voters. New parks, park improvements, playgrounds, skateparks, four new synthetic sports fields, acquisition of natural areas, and other park projects have been funded (see *articles on pages 1,2 & 3*).

PARKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

There will be plenty of action in Eugene parks this summer, and, in six parks, this will include construction projects.

Park construction will continue through most of the summer with tree planting occurring in the fall when temperatures are cooler and winter rains are close at hand. Watch for information about grand opening festivities at one of these parks.

Summer Construction Projects

- Bethel Community Park: New play area, restrooms, basketball court, picnic shelter, walkways, and landscaping.
- Country Lane Park: New playground, concrete walkways and ramp.
- Gilbert Park: New play area, paths and landscaping.
- Irwin Connector: New path to link Irwin Park to neighborhood to the west.
- Lark Park: Renovation of play area, turf and landscaping.
- Oakmont Park: New play area, basketball court, water feature, paths, and landscaping.
- Trainsong Park: Renovation of ballfield, lighting, paths, turf, and landscaping.

For more information, call 682-4800.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Looking for some new excitement at the playground? A number of new children's play areas have been constructed in the last four years. Some offer fun on familiar, traditional play equipment; others provide opportunities for innovative adventure. All are worth a visit for some extra fun and excitement this summer.



Irwin Park



Gilham Park



Skyview Park

New Playgrounds

- Skyview Park: Unique play equipment, such as corkscrew platforms, ropes and climbing features, that inspire creative play.
- Gilham Park: Sand/water play with child-activated water devices, great for younger children.
- Laurel Hill Park: Nestled in a grove of red-wood trees, this playground includes interactive elements, such as a wave mirror and a talking tube that spans two play areas, and athletic features, such as chin up bars, rings and a twisted climbing arc.
- Irwin Park: Traditional play structure with climbers; slides; spinner poles; big spring seesaw; swings; and tile twister game created by a local artist.
- Cal Young, Sheldon, and Churchill sports parks: Traditional play equipment in close proximity to sports fields, basketball courts, picnic facilities, restrooms, and other amenities.

For more information, call 682-4800.



Attention kids of all ages! With the help of the Eugene Lions Club, Eugene Active 20/30 Club and Eugene Downtown Rotary Club, plans are underway to design and build two new, regional playgrounds—one at Skinner Butte Park and one at Alton Baker Park. What is a regional playground? In short, it's a big one. The project is called RiverPlay because the playgrounds will be built in riverfront parks that are closely connected by the river bank trail system and DeFazio Bridge. The goal is to make the playgrounds different but complementary. The Alton Baker Park playground will be the largest, with adventurous play equipment, including a water element, or "spray park." The Skinner Butte Park playground will be fun and educational, as Eugene's natural and cultural history is brought to life through interactive features.

The Eugene Lions Club and the Eugene Active 20/30 Club have joined forces to help build the Alton Baker Park playground, while the Eugene Downtown Rotary Club has pledged to help build the Skinner Butte Park playground. It's this incredible showing of community support that is making this project possible! Later this summer, the whole community will be invited to participate in the design of these new parks. Construction of the playgrounds is planned for summer 2004 and 2005. For more information, call 682-4915.

HERE COME THE LEAVES

For more information about the leaf collection schedule or to request leaf delivery, call 682-4800 or visit any community center, the library, or www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/leaves/index.htm.

Eugene Outdoors! is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy these natural and recreational areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene's parks and open space. Contact us at:
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New Adventure in Eugene's Parks

It seems that humankind's thirst for adventure is never quenched. Every year, new, more unique sports hit the scene. Sports are no longer defined by soccer and softball. Consider that snowboarding is now an Olympic event, or look no further than Eugene's own parks to witness the changing face of sports and recreation today.

Inline hockey is one new sport that is sweeping the country and, thanks to a new multi-functional surface recently installed at the Amazon Park tennis courts, is coming soon to Eugene. The new, elastic surface is more durable and provides a more cushioned, low-impact experience for tennis players. It also allows the courts to be utilized for a variety of sports. In August, two of the four new tennis courts at Amazon Park will be converted to an inline and floor hockey rink for several months through the winter with the removal of the tennis nets and installation of dasher boards. To develop the new sports, clinics, leagues and drop-in sessions will be offered at the new facility.



Skateboarding is another fast-growing sport that can be played at five parks in Eugene (see locations at right). Each skatepark varies in size and skill level. In the last four years, four new skateparks have been constructed in Eugene. These parks regularly attract throngs of young people, performing stunts of daring, and the demand is still growing.

Another favorite and unique recreational facility is the **disc golf** course at Westmoreland Park. The course has been upgraded recently with a new irrigation system, improved drainage, renovated paths, reinforced tee pads, and 100 new trees. Unlike traditional golf, no tee time is needed, a set of discs is relatively inexpensive and there's no charge to use the course. As one player remarked, "You get a lot of bang for your buck with disc golf."

For thrill seekers, there is high flying adventure at both Skinner Butte and Spencer Butte parks. The basalt columns at Skinner Butte Park offer convenient, in-town rock climbing, while the challenge course at Spencer Butte Park provides unique outdoor challenges for groups in a safe and controlled environment.



WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO DO IT!

Activity

Location

Basketball	Acorn, Amazon, Awbrey, Berkeley, Bethel, Brewer, Cal Young, Churchill, Country Lane, Crescent, Irwin, Lark, Laurel Hill, Lincoln, Mangan, Martin Luther King, Milton, Monroe, Petersen, Sheldon, Sladden, State Street, Trainsong, Tugman, University, Washington, Washington/Jefferson
Baseball/t-ball	Amazon, Ascot, Bethel, Graham, Ida Patterson, Irwin, Kincaid, Petersen, Shasta, State Street, Trainsong, University, Washington
Bicycling - BMX	Alton Baker, State Street
Bicycling - mountain	Ridgeline (Fox Hollow to Dillard and Dillard to Spring Blvd.)
Bicycling - recreational	Amazon, Fern Ridge Path, riverfront bike path
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	Alton Baker (boat launch & canoe canal), Willamette River
Challenge course	Spencer Butte
Disc golf	Westmoreland
Fishing	Alton Baker canoe canal, Willamette River
Football	Ascot, Graham, Kincaid, Petersen, Washington
Frisbee throwing	Most parks
Golf	Laurelwood
Hiking/nature walks	Hendricks Park, Ridgeline, West Eugene Wetlands
Horseshoes	Mangan, Washington/Jefferson
Inline hockey	Amazon Tennis Courts
Lacrosse	Ascot
Rock climbing	Skinner Butte
Rollerblading	Amazon, Fern Ridge and riverfront bike paths
Running	Alton Baker (Pre's Trail), Amazon (Adidas and Rexius trails), Gilham, Hawkins Heights, Irwin, Petersen, Ridgeline, Trainsong, Westmoreland
Sand volleyball	Amazon, Churchill, Washington/Jefferson
Skateboarding	Amazon, Bethel, Cal Young, Churchill, Trainsong
Soccer	Amazon, Ascot, Graham, Ida Patterson, Irwin, Maurie Jacobs, Petersen
Soccer/football/rugby (synthetic, all-weather fields)	Churchill & Sheldon youth sports parks and North Eugene & South Eugene high schools
Softball	Amazon, Ascot, Graham, Ida Patterson, Irwin, Kincaid, Petersen, Shasta, State Street, Trainsong, University, Washington
Swimming	Amazon, Echo Hollow, Sheldon
Tennis	Amazon, Churchill, Echo Hollow, Sheldon, Sladden, Washington, Westmoreland
Ultimate	Ascot, Graham

LOOKING FOR A TEAM?

AYSO, 484-1149

City of Eugene Athletics, 682-5409

Emerald Kidsports, 683-2374

Emerald Valley Little League, 461-1130

Eugene Fencing, 688-6574

Eugene Lacrosse 343-6389

Eugene Rugby Football, 338-9111

Oregon United Soccer Academy, 683-8845

Special Olympics, 726-0387

Willamette Valley Babe Ruth, 485-4942

Willamette Valley Pop Warner Football, 998-7933

YMCA, 686-9622



PEOPLE IN PARKS

David Brown and Ryan Green both love the convenience of the Skinner Butte Park rock climbing columns. "It's five minutes from our place," says Brown, who shares a house with Green. "This is a good place to learn how to climb and get some exercise." Both enjoy the thrill, challenge and camaraderie of rock climbing. "A good climb requires good kinesthetics," says Brown. "It is aesthetically pleasing when your body movements are synchronized as you climb." You can also catch some great views, they say. In Eugene, it's tree-covered hills; at popular rock climbing destinations, like Smith Rock and Flagstone, several hundred feet up, it's snow-capped mountains. But there's nothing like the Skinner Butte columns for a few quick runs. "We come at least once a week," says Green.



Ten years ago Nina Herbst joined some co-workers for a game of **ultimate** Frisbee and she's been playing ever since. She's also recruited enough women along the way to form the first all-women's team in the league, which plays all of its games at Graham fields in southwest Eugene. She says she really appreciates the camaraderie of playing with other women. "There are always conversations happening on the field," says Herbst. "Everybody has a voice." But, don't be fooled; these women are talking strategy, and what they don't have in brawn, they make up for in skill, experience and team dynamics. And, it's paid off. It looks as if the All Jane's are here to stay. They've won nine out of their 12 games.

Did you Know?

The Shasta softball facility demands approximately 43 hours of maintenance per week.



"Dig, dig," yells Kathy Brazell, manager of the Cornucopia Corn Stars coed softball team, as she wills her teammate to first base on the softball field at Ascot Park. For the last two years since she returned to Eugene, she's been playing with the same team. "It brings people together, doing an organized sport, having fun and getting fresh air," says Brazell. "It's a wonderful opportunity for recreation in city parks." Most of the team attended Brazell's graduation party from the University of Oregon the night before, and Brazell and other teammates confess that might have something to do with their weak performance in the first inning. "This is a semi-competitive league. It's mainly about having fun," says Brazell as she runs out to play second base. *Epilog: For all you Corn Stars fans, they rallied a comeback and won this game and their next game!*



Did you Know?

Shasta field is considered Eugene's largest softball facility; its bases are separated by either 60 or 65 feet and the outfield fence is at 275 feet.

Through chattering teeth, Serrie Davis, age 7, and Seraphina Dilcher, age 8, talk about how much they love to swim. They are both on the year-round YMCA swim team that practices daily at Amazon Pool. Davis' favorite drill is breast stroke. For Dilcher, it's catch-up free style where you try to catch up to the swimmer ahead of you and tag her. Both girls already seem to have a sense of the aesthetics of swimming. Davis describes the way she has to stretch her legs to do the breast stroke, and both are eager to demonstrate their form. As they plunge into the sparkling water on that sunny afternoon, it is clear that they swim for the sheer fun of it!

Did you Know?

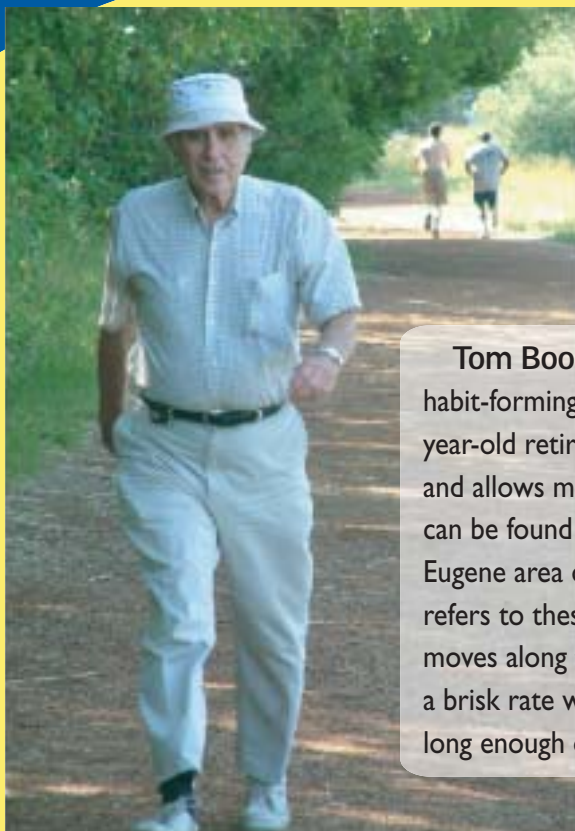
2,400 feet of lines are painted on the average soccer field weekly during the busy season.

Did you Know? Several thousand teams play close to 10,000 games on Eugene's outdoor sports fields every year.

fields (many of these fields are dual-purpose).

Did you Know?

One synthetic turf field equals eight grass fields (in terms of capacity).



Tom Booth considers a walk in the park habit-forming. “It gives me a rush,” says the 82-year-old retired dentist. “It also keeps me trim and allows me to enjoy the outdoors.” Booth can be found walking in many of the parks in the Eugene area on a regular basis. Though he refers to these walks as “a bit of exercise,” he moves along the Adidas Trail in Amazon Park at a brisk rate with long steady strides, pausing long enough only for this short interview.

Did you Know?

Approximately, 20 camps, eight tournaments and hundreds of practices and pick-up games are held on sports fields during the summer.



Darrell Perko and **Kevin Douglas** have been **disc golfing** for less than a year, but already they’re hooked. “Like regular golf, there is infinite opportunity for improvement,” says Perko. But, it’s a lot less expensive than traditional golf. You really need only two discs, which can cost anywhere from \$9 to \$15, and, at Westmoreland Park, the nine-hole course is free. The rest is addictive. Perko has played the last five days in a row in his eternal quest for the perfect game. He tees off with a full-drive backhand. The disc soars through the air toward the target approximately 200 feet away; but, alas, the wind carries it off to the right of the hole. But, our protagonist pulls out a birdie with his next shot—he hits the hole and registers a “ching,” a sound oh-so-sweet to a disc golfer’s ears.

Did you Know?

The average sports field costs over \$100,000 to construct.

Did you Know?

Each sports field is mowed at least 52 times per year.



Ryan Hunt rounds the skateboard park at Churchill Sports Park gaining momentum. Suddenly, he’s in the air performing a front side air jump, following by a kick flip, and he’s come to a complete halt, skateboard in hand. The freckled-face, 13-year-old boy looks like any other young teen, with his DC skateboarding shoes and jeans hanging low on his hips. The difference is that this kid takes skateboarding seriously. His grandmother says skateboarding is Hunt’s passion.

“He’ll watch others do tricks and then he’ll go and do it over and over again and crash and burn until he gets it right,” she says. Hunt says he loves to “travel around to different parks, meet new people and learn new tricks.” He met Tony Hawk, the professional skateboarder, during his recent visit to the area. “He told me to keep it up, don’t give up and I could get really good,” says Hunt.

Did you Know?

The sprinkler systems at all athletic fields are connected to a specialized weather station that controls the amount of irrigation the fields receive depending on the weather.

Did you Know?

There are 160 sprinkler heads and 8,990 feet of sprinkler piping at the Shasta complex, which consists of four softball fields.

Did you Know?

In City leagues, after two, over-the-fence homeruns, the next homerun is considered an out.



Almost every day after school, **Uriel Santos Hernandez** (in tan shirt) and his brother grab a snack at home and head for the basketball courts at Washington/Jefferson Park to play some hoops. Hernandez, who is going into tenth grade at North Eugene High School, says playing basketball is “a great way to exercise, have fun with friends and relax a little after a hard day at school.” He really likes the Washington/Jefferson courts, which are sheltered by the I-105 overpass, because you can play rain or shine.

Did you Know?

Soccer is one of the hardest sports on turf.

Did you Know? For the safety of the players, a restricted-flight ball and bat is used to limit hitting range and speed at all City softball fields.

Did you Know? There are 52,340 linear feet of drainage pipe and 1,200 feet of irrigation piping at Graham fields.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NURTURE PLANTS

There's a bit of heroism in salvaging a plant that otherwise would be destroyed, says John Coggins, one of the regulars at the Stream Team native plant nursery work sessions.

Coggins, Jack Turner and Phyllis Fisher were among the group of volunteers that was busy tending, potting and identifying plants with Stream Team coordinator Lorna Baldwin one afternoon. For most of these volunteers, native plants have become a way of life.

For the past five years, Coggins has been cultivating his own native plant garden, meticulously pulling out non-natives and substituting with native plants. He has reintroduced over 50 species of native plants into his garden. He sees his work at the native plant nursery as a way to multiply his efforts to cultivate native plants and teach others about how to use native plants.



Jack Turner guides students from the Rachel Carson program in a work day at the nursery.

Turner says he's always loved growing things. That's why he always wanted to be a nurseryman. After 30 years as a teacher, however, he's finally fulfilling his dream by volunteering at the native plant nursery. Now, he not only gets to culture and nurture plants, he's also tied in to a network of people who love plants too. "The people who work here are incredible," says Turner. "It's nice to be around people who care about nature and see the beauty in plants."

Phyllis Fisher is fast becoming a "native" Oregonian. A recent transplant from New England, she is entirely enraptured by the abundance of wildflowers that grow here and the desire to "reclaim for nature places that have been invaded by non-native plants." This quest has found her, as a Stream Team volunteer, in the middle of an oak savanna and wetlands collecting seed; digging up camas bulbs from a site that is now a parking lot; and propagating all these plants at the nursery. Because of her intimate involvement with these plants, she was able to identify many native species on a recent hike in the Ridgeline.

For Baldwin, these volunteers are the heart and soul of the program. She points out a three-foot tall white oak growing in the nursery. It was cultivated from acorns collected by volunteers. Across the nursery, plants, whose populations are dwindling in nature, are growing because volunteers collected seed, salvaged plants or took cuttings at Stream Team work parties. Hundreds of plants have been earmarked for restoration projects this summer and fall. Because of these volunteers' efforts, plants once dominant in riparian, wet prairie and oak savanna habitats will have a chance to flourish once again. See the fruits of their efforts this winter at Lamb Cottage at Skinner Butte Park, the new Amazon Headwaters Trail, Tugman Park, and many other natural areas in Eugene. For more information, call 682-4850.



Left to right: Lauri Mullen, staff, Mieko Aoki, Cameron Chapman, Colin Meston, Phyllis Fisher, John Coggins. Absent: Hillary Dearborn and Jack Turner

A BARKING SUCCESS

It's like one big family at the Alton Baker Park dog park. One dog was positively so excited to greet his human friend, Cathy Benjamin, he just couldn't contain himself and jumped up on the table to lick her. Benjamin, one of the leaders of the dog park volunteer group, is glad to see him as well and greets him by name. "Hi, Charlie, boy," she says to the Australian shepherd mix.

The volunteer group was born a couple of years ago when Volunteers in Parks Coordinator Chris Girard solicited interest from the community to help design a new dog park. Girard recognized this group as an extremely diverse, yet committed, group of people. "The group consists of people from all backgrounds—artists, lawyers, fashion designers, students, and homeless people," says Benjamin. "But, we all get along because we all have at least one thing in common—we're neurotic about our dogs!"

Within months, the group was actively involved in planning the new park, raising money to subsidize innovative features in the park and organizing work parties to help create gravel paths, rebuild picnic tables, remove blackberries and other invasive plants, plant trees, and install benches.

Patrons say they really appreciate the sum effect—more space, shade, trails, areas to sit and socialize in, and conveniences such as dog waste bags, year-round water for the dog wash-down station, and drinking fountains for dogs and their owners.

Since the park opened in August, it seems their network has only grown in fervor. "This is a really caring, giving group of individuals," says Benjamin, who facilitates communication with the 85 people who have signed up to volunteer at the dog park through an e-mail list. A group of Weyerhaeuser employees volunteered in the dog park and raised money through a company grant program for the drinking fountains. Another patron donated a tripod sprinkler; others water the fields when they visit the park. A volunteer has offered to construct an informational bulletin board for the growing community. One patron periodically brings bags of tennis balls to share with all the dogs; another takes pictures of dogs and their owners and hands them out.

As far as Girard is concerned, this is exactly how his program is supposed to work. "The Volunteers in Parks program gives people the opportunity to get involved in their parks, to take ownership." Groups like the Alton Baker dog park group are springing up all over the city, improving neighborhood parks and other parks and natural areas, such as Rasor Park, Owen Rose Garden and the Ridgeline Trail. For more information, call 682-4845.



Cathy Benjamin and her dogs, Howie and Spottie, admire the tile bench, donated and created by volunteers.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE TREE AT A TIME

As the volunteer coordinator of the NeighborWoods program, I see volunteerism as an opportunity to make a real difference in the community. This year, the program's tenth anniversary, over 450 new trees were planted by 345 volunteers. Some residents planted trees in the right-of-way in front of their homes; others participated in the Trees for Concrete projects, where drab, concrete landscapes in the city's urban core were transformed into "greenscape." One volunteer's contributions stand out for me. My hat is off to him and all the volunteers who have come out to plant and protect trees. —Troy Kreger



Jeff Lanza proudly poses by a newly planted street tree.

Jeff Lanza, landscape designer, has taken volunteerism to another level. Lanza has been involved in tree planting projects since 1996, helping me and other Urban Forestry staff design and plan projects, select tree species, plant trees, and supervise volunteers. He's a tireless worker. He'll stay late the night before a project helping with all the preparations and stay the day of the project until the last piece of equipment is put away, long after the average volunteer has gone home.

While Lanza was working on his thesis in the landscape architect program at the University of Oregon, a historic big leaf maple in an adjoining community was severely pruned. "It was done through a lack of knowledge about how trees grow, and the majesty of its canopy was forever ruined," says Lanza. Initially, he was angry, but then decided to commit himself to "getting the word out" about trees—their proper care and their value in our community.

That's when Lanza joined Eugene Tree Foundation (ETF), a volunteer group that seeks to raise awareness about trees. Through the "Trees for Concrete" program, a partnership between the City and ETF, Lanza and many other volunteers have created oases of green across downtown Eugene. Most recently, nine trees were planted on 18th Avenue between Oak and Pearl. Also visit West 5th and Charnelton; Willamette between 24th and 26th; and 3rd and Lawrence to see a sample of Lanza's and all NeighborWoods volunteers' legacy to the community. For more information, call 682-4831.

RESIDENTS TELL ALL ABOUT EUGENE'S PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Nearly 3,000 people, including youth, community leaders and others, came out in force these last nine months to give their input about what they want from their community's parks, recreation and open space services in the next 20 years. With the help of a mayor's committee comprised of 13 community members representing diverse sectors in the community, parks and recreation staff have collated the results of this mammoth outreach effort. Across the board, citizens expressed that the most important benefit of parks, recreation and open space is the opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Here are the top three action priorities that emerged:

- Improve existing parks and open space areas by upgrading park features and improving habitat.
- Acquire land and develop new parks, especially neighborhood parks, and natural areas.
- Provide additional recreational facilities and programs, such as pools, multi-use trails, dog parks, youth centers and programming, and a community sports complex.

The next phase of the comprehensive plan process involves creating a draft implementation strategy and getting feedback from the community once again, starting this fall. For more information, call 682-4907 or visit www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/pros/pros_home.htm.

TOUCH A TREE

In Conversation with Urban Forester Mark Snyder

Like the person participating in the team-building, **challenge course** at Spencer Butte Park, I was both scared and thrilled the first time I took to the trees with rope and saddle in my arboriculture course in forestry school. I was hooked, and for the next 10 years, I climbed trees for a living. There aren't too many more physically demanding jobs, but the thrill of clambering about in the crown of a tall tree is hard to beat. The views are great, the air is always cooler and fresher, and the natural swaying of the tree in a breeze is comforting and calming (after you get used to it!).

Even if you're not testing yourself on a ropes course by climbing a 100-foot fir, you probably enjoy trees in parks in other ways. We often don't see the trees for the forest in our parks—they are simply there, defining the perimeter or focusing our view toward a particular vista. And, while the silent sentinels perform all their myriad ecological functions, such as enhancing water quality and reducing air pollution, whether we're in the park or not, they offer tremendous benefits when we do interact with them. Sometimes they show off, as the heritage cherry tree in Owen Rose Garden does when it blossoms in full regalia in early spring. Most of you have enjoyed nature's air conditioners on a hot summer day by sitting down or having lunch in the shade of a tree. You might have helped remember a loved one by



For the thrill of climbing a tree at the challenge course, call 682-6324.

planting a tree in the Hays Memorial Tree Garden. Or you might simply have enjoyed trees by watching them come alive year after year each spring.

Reach out and touch a tree next time you're in a park. A recent article about bristlecone pine trees listed the age of one as over 4,000 years. There probably aren't any trees that old in Eugene, but trees can be awe-inspiring in many other ways if you stop to watch them. And if you're brave enough, try the Spencer Butte Challenge Course (it really is safe)—and have fun playing in trees!

GLOSSARY OF PARKS AND RECREATION TERMS

All glossary words appear in this issue in **blue bold**.

BMX: abbreviation for "bicycle motocross," or cross-country bicycling over rough terrain.

Challenge Course at Spencer Butte: a facilitated learning opportunity for groups at the base of the butte. Course features low and high elements, ropes, ladders, pilings and forms built among the trees, and offers a variety of challenges, such as traversing a rope bridge or cable 20 feet above the ground, that inspire participants to explore, learn and grow as a team and individually. For more information, call 682-6324.

Disc Golf: golf played with flying discs. Players tee-off and attempt to make it into the target, an elevated metal basket, in the fewest number of throws.

Inline Hockey: similar to ice hockey except played with inline skates on concrete or synthetic surfaces. The game is played with hockey sticks and either an inline hockey puck or ball.

Lacrosse: a game played with 10 players on two teams on a soccer-size field. The game is played with a long-handled stick that has a webbed pouch (the crosse), which is used to throw, catch and scoop the ball. The object is to shoot the ball into the opponent's goal.

Synthetic Field: an artificial grass surface designed for athletic fields. The four fields in Eugene are comprised of synthetic blades of grass, about 2.5 inches in length and filled with rubber granules. The result is a cushiony, grass-like surface.

Ultimate: played with seven players on each team and a flying disc (Frisbee). Players may not run with the disc but must pass/throw the disc to a teammate to advance. The goal is to score by completing a pass in the opponent's end zone.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. "\$" denotes that the admission fee varies.

Ongoing

Native Plant Nursery work party, Wastewater Treatment Plant, 410 River Ave., Tuesdays, 2-4p, **682-4850**.

August 2 – October 31

Historic Preservation and Other Studies Exhibit, Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, Tu-F, 10a-1p; Sa-Su, 1-4p; **484-0808** or www.smjhouse.org.

August 3

Emerald Horn Club, Washburne Park, 6:30p, **344-0483**.

Tai Chi class, Scobert Park, 1180 W. 4th Ave., 1p, **686-4646**.

Family Blackberry Raft Picnic, float the Willamette, River House, 11a-4:30p, \$30, ages 7+, register at **682-5329**.

Blackberry Bramble Bicycle Recreational Rides, Alton Baker Park, 100 mi (7a), 67 mi (8a), and 12 mi (9a) family rides, register at www.eugenegear.org/bramble/bramble_index.htm

August 4-8

Splash Madness, Fun For All, free, drop-in summer recreational program at Monroe, University, Washington, State Street, Sladden, Mangan, and Petersen parks; Irving Elementary; and Cal Young and Churchill sports parks; 10a-5p; **682-5361**.

August 5

Son Mela '0, Cuban dance music, Campbell Senior Center/Skinner Butte Park, 6:30p, **682-5318**.

National Night Out: America's Night Out Against Crime, family activities/police demonstrations at Amazon Pool, Sheldon Community Center, Campbell Senior Center, Monroe, Sladden, and Petersen parks, **682-8222**.

August 6

Queen Accordionna—The Supreme Sovereign of Squeeze, concert at Scobert Park, Blair & W. 4th, picnic at 6:30p, music at 7p, **686-4646** or **484-1680**.

Beginning Birding, ages 5-7, West Eugene Wetlands, 8-10a, register at **683-6494**.

Native seed collection with Stream Team, 9a-12, **682-4850**.

August 9

Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party, W. 18th Avenue, just west of Bertelsen, 9:30a-12, **682-4927**.

Hendricks Park Volunteer Day Work Party, F.M. Wilkins Shelter, 9:30a-1p, **682-5324**.

Amazon Scavenger Hunt & Swim, Hilyard Community Center, open to all ages and abilities, 2-5p, \$8, **682-5311**.

Stream Team salvage project, **682-4850**.

August 10

Classical Concert, Washburne Park, 6:30p, **344-0483**.

Tai Chi class, Scobert Park, see August 3

Family Blackberry Raft Picnic, see August 3.

Dragonfly Walk, Wallis & 5th, 10a-12, **683-6494**.

August 11-15

Crazy Crafts, Fun For All, free, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks, see August 4-8.

August 12-17

Lane County Fair, off the Fern Ridge Path at Friendly, \$, www.atthefair.com

August 13

Mitchell Kirby concert, Scobert Park, see August 6.

Native seed collection, see August 6.

Art and Nature, for ages 8-12, West Eugene Wetlands, 9a-12, register at **683-6494**.

Evening in the Wetlands walk, end of Royal Ave., 7:30-11p, **683-6494**.

August 16

Family Sunset Float, Island Park to the River House, 6-9p, \$30, ages 8+, register at **682-5329**.

Field Sketching in the Wetlands, West Eugene Wetlands, 9a-12, **683-6494**.

August 17

Accordions Anonymous, Washburne Park, 6:30p, **344-0483**.

August 18-22

Summer Fun For All, free, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks, see August 4-8.

August 20

Native seed collection, see August 6.

Dragonflies and Damselflies, for ages 8-12, West Eugene Wetlands, 1-3p, register at **683-6494**.

August 22

Waterfest 2003, two-day adaptive water sports event for people with disabilities, Richardson Park (Fern Ridge), \$40, register at **682-5311**.

Multicultural Festival, Sheldon Community Center/Pool, 5-9p, swimming at 7p, **682-5312**.

August 23

Stream Team salvage project, **682-4850**.

August 24

Eugene Symphonic Band, Washburne Park, see August 10.

August 27

Native seed collection, see August 6

Party Booby Trap concert, Scobert Park, see August 6.

The Wonders of the Wetland, for ages 5-7, West Eugene Wetlands, 8-10a, register at **683-6494**.

August 31

Junction City Polka Band, Washburne Park, see August 10.

September 1

Junction City Brass, Washburne Park, see August 10.

September 6

Compost Workshop, Grass Roots Garden, 1465 Coburg, 10-11:30a, **682-5542**.

September 7

Alder Street Quintet, Washburne Park, see August 10.

September 13

Walk for the Gold, Special Olympics, Alton Baker Park, 10a-1p, register at **741-3800**.

September 13

Willow Creek Volunteer Day, see August 9.

Hendricks Park Volunteer Day, see August 9.

September 14

Dillard Gang brass quintet, Washburne Park, see August 10.

September 19-21

Eugene Celebration, downtown; Fri, 6p-midnight; Sat, 11a-midnight; Sun, 11a-5p; parade Sat, 9a; \$, **681-4108**.

September 28

Audubon/Stream Team trail guide training, 1-4p, register at **682-4850**.

October 4

America's Walk for Diabetes fundraiser, Alton Baker Park, 10a, register at www.diabetes.org/walk.

Delta Ponds clean-up with the Downtown Lions Club, Stream Team adoption group, 10a-12, **682-4850**.

October 5

Memory Walk 2003, fundraiser for Alzheimers Association, 12:30p, register at **345-8392**.

October 11

Willow Creek Volunteer Day, see August 9.

16th Annual Great Rotary Duck Race, fundraiser to prevent child abuse, Alton Baker Park, breakfast/entertainment, 8a, duck race at 12, **682-3773**.

Mill Race Clean-up, Stream Team, **682-4850**.

October 18

Compost Workshop, see September 6.

October 24

Haunted Hike, Nearby Nature children's program, Alton Baker Park, 5:30-9p, \$5, **687-9699**, nearbynature.org.

November 1

Compost Workshop, see September 6.

November 8

Willow Creek Volunteer Day, see August 9.

THANK YOU TRACK TOWN PIZZA ON
FRANKLIN BOULEVARD FOR FEEDING
STREAM TEAM VOLUNTEERS AT
THIS YEAR'S AMAZON
APPRECIATION DAY IN JUNE!

